

Covid 19 Contingency Plan 4th February 2022

Introduction

The government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings should continue to operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. Measures affecting education and childcare may be necessary in some circumstances, for example:

- to help manage a COVID-19 outbreak within a setting
- as part of a package of measures responding to a variant of concern (VoC) or to the extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community
- to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS

Roles and Responsibilities

- safeguarding - local agencies, services and settings should work together to actively look for signs of harm given the greater risk of harm that some children may have been exposed to through COVID-19
- supporting children's learning, development and wellbeing - continue to follow the [early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework](#)
- supporting vulnerable children

Busikids will continue to ensure good hygiene for everyone, maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, keep occupied spaces well ventilated, and follow public health advice on testing and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Busikids has a full risk assessment for Covid 19 measures.

If symptoms of Covid 19 occur, book a PCR test and isolate until the negative result – or if positive follow current guidance, and isolate for 10 days. Individuals who have had a negative LFD test on days 5 and 6 may return to work on day 6 if they do not have a temperature, a cough / anosmia may still be present.

- Unvaccinated adults must continue to self-isolate for 10 days if they are a contact of someone with COVID-19

From Tuesday 14 December, people who are fully vaccinated and identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take an NHS rapid lateral flow test every day for 7 days to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Please refer to current advice attached.

Under-18s, irrespective of their vaccination status, and double vaccinated adults will not need to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive case.

18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 6 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated.

Children under 5 years who are identified as close contacts are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts.

They are advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is in their household.

The contingency framework describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 in education and childcare settings. Local authorities, directors of public health (DsPH) and UKHSA health protection teams can recommend measures described in the contingency framework in individual education and childcare settings – or a small cluster of settings – as part of their outbreak management responsibilities.

If any of these thresholds are reached:

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

We will review and reinforce the testing, hygiene and ventilation measures already in place.

We would also consider:

- whether any activities could take place outdoors, including exercise, assemblies, or classes
- ways to improve ventilation indoors, where this would not significantly impact thermal comfort
- one-off enhanced cleaning focussing on touch points and any shared equipment

We will work hard to keep the nursery open for our families. If any staff and/or children have to isolate because they have Covid 19, we will endeavour to mix age groups across the rooms, if necessary, while adhering to the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Requirements 2021 for adult: child ratios and floor space requirements.

If high levels of workforce absence mean we need to restrict attendance (for example, if unable to operate at full capacity we should give priority to:

- children of critical workers, and vulnerable children - some children may be vulnerable who are not officially in statutory systems and we should seek to support any children who we believe may have challenging circumstances at home
- then 3- and 4-year-olds, in particular those who will be transitioning to Reception
- followed by younger age groups

Local authorities should work with settings to identify provision for children who need places.

Should any rooms need to be closed, any staff remaining who are well will be redistributed within the setting, and/or work from home, to provide home learning for any children for whom a place cannot be provided.

We may seek additional public health advice if concerned about transmission in the setting, by phoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1).

We will take advice from Local authority, including restrictions of movement between areas, restricting visitors indoors and recommend increased lateral flow testing to staff.

All settings should seek public health advice if a pupil, student, child or staff member is admitted to hospital with COVID-19.

They can do this by phoning the DfE helpline (0800 046 8687, option 1), or in line with other local arrangements.

Hospitalisation could indicate increased severity of illness or a new variant of concern. Settings may be offered public health support in managing risk assessments and communicating with staff and parents.

Further information:

Actions for early years and childcare during the COVID-19 pandemic Jan2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1049404/20220120_22nd_Iteration_EY_guidance.pdf

Managing coronavirus (COVID-19) in education and childcare settings Jan2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-in-education-and-childcare-settings>